MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 MAY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian troops have advanced to the international border west of Hoseyniyeh station, liberating 17 km of the border along an area covering 300 square km, according to announcements by Tehran radio early on 7 May. Many Iraqi troops were killed or captured, the radio said, and the enemy was forced to retreat inside Iraq. Earlier, Iranian military communiques broadcast by Tehran radio had claimed further successes in the Fakkeh region, where over 700 Iraqis were reported captured. The Iranian Air Force downed an Iraqi plane and bombed an Iraqi command headquartersin the Salamcheh region, according to one communique. It said 19 Iraqi tanks had been destroyed and 600 Iraqis killed or wounded.

Iraqi forces have contained the new Iranian attack, according to a military spokesman's statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masees radio on 7 May. Asserting that Iran is using the last of its exhausted units in its "desperate offensive," the spokesman said Iraqi troops have encirlced some enemy units and inflicted heavy losses on them. The Iraqi Air Force has begun intensive attacks on Iranian positions west of the Karun River, according to a related INA report. A 6 May Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio claimed that Iraqi forces had tightened their grip around besieged Iranian forces in the (Taheri-Halub) Bridge area and were continuing to advance east of the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr highway toward the Karun River. The communique said 10 Iranian tanks had been knocked out and that an Iranian plane and a helicopter had been downed in the (Jananah) area, where Iraqi forces thwarted an Iranian attack designed to relieve pressure on forces besieged in the (Taheri-Halub) Bridge area.

Egypt

Mubarak Sudan Visit, Comment on Peace Process -- President Mubarak held talks in Khartoum with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, MENA reported. The two men subsequently held a press conference reported by MENA, in which Numayri revealed that he and Mubarak had agreed on taking clear practical steps toward Sudanese-Egyptian integration. Whenever Egyptian and Sudanese leaders meet, Numayri said, they will give momentum to this work.

Mubarak affirmed that there is no alternative to the Camp David accords, which are an inescapable, established fact. Any initiative to resolve the Palestinian question must receive Israel's approval, he asserted. After returning to Cairo, Mubarak said Egypt will not change its view regarding the holding of the autonomy talks in Jerusalem, Cairo radio reported.

A 7 May AL-AHRAM commentary reported by MENA criticized the Israeli Knesset's vote against the dismantling of Jewish settlements, asking why the Israeli Government has tied its hands in this matter while it is about to enter into diplomatic negotiations that require free movement and complete flexibility.

Opposition Indictment, Threat to Mubarak -- AL-AHRAM reported that authorities will shortly announce the indictment of 299 leaders and members of the Al-Jihad organization, who are accused of participating in the terrorist acts that followed the assassination of Anwar as-Sadat, MENA reported. Meanwhile, the Athens paper RIZOSPASTIS reported that a "military tribunal" of the opposition Al-Aqsa organization has condemned Mubarak to death.

Israel

Reaction to U.S. Announcement -- Israel has expressed reservation over a U.S. State Department announcement noting that after 5 years of autonomy there exists a possibility of setting up an independent Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district, just as there exists a possibility of Israel extending sovereignty over these territories, MA'ARIV reported. According to the paper, political sources in Jerusalem said the announcement must be examined with concern to see if it reflects a shift in U.S. Middle East policy.

However, the prime minister's office regards the announcement as an acceptance of Israel's interpretation of the Camp David accords, Jerusalem television reported, citing the prime minister's adviser Uri Porat. Ever since the Camp David accords were signed the United States has been confirming that as part of the negotiations to be held after 5 years of autonomy, Israel would be able to demand sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district just as the Palestinian inhabitants would be able to demand the establishment of their own country, Porat said.

West Bank, Gaza Situation — Four Ramallah area mayors have refused to meet with the civil administration in Ramallah, Jerusalem radio reported.

Jordan

Jordan is entitled to ask the United States to supply it with weapons, but if the United States closes the door on its request, Jordan will seek arms from other sources, King Husayn declared in an interview with AL-AHRAM carried by MENA. While noting that Jordan has concluded an arms deal with the Soviet Union, Husayn said Jordan is now trying to stay away from the superpowers and is turning to Western Europe as a source of arms.

Asked about Egypt's future role in light of the Baghdad conference resolutions severing diplomatic relations and freezing economic relations with Egypt, Husayn said it is hoped that things will return to the way they were before the conference, with Arab unity restored so Egypt can play a major role in the interest of the Arab nation. Asked whether he would soon visit Cairo, Husayn said he hoped circumstances would permit him to hold meetings on all levels.

Commenting on the Iran-Iraq war, Husayn noted that there are Arab states helping Iran in contravention of the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab defense treaty. Husayn went on to criticize Iran for exporting its revolution to other Islamic states.

PDRY-Omani Relations

The PDRY and the Sultanate of Oman have reached a six-point agreement to settle their differences, KUNA reported citing Kuwait's AL-ANBA'. The agreement, which follows visits to Aden and Muscat by the foreign ministers of Kuwait and the UAE, provides for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and the PDRY and for each country to prevent the use of its territory for operations against the other. AL-ANBA' also said the two countries will hold a high-level meeting in the near future. Gulf sources cited by Qatari newspapers said the mediation efforts of Kuwait and the UAE had produced good results and that a PDRY-Omani reconciliation meeting may be held in Kuwait shortly, according to QNA.

Libya

Libya will supply Ghana with 360,000 tons of crude oil over 6 months as part of an agreement signed by Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Jallud during his 3-day visit to Ghana, Accra radio reported. Libya is ready to stand by Ghana to deepen and strengthen its revolution, Jallud said, according to an earlier radio report.

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For Belgrade reportage on the visit to Yugoslavia by President Sanjiva Reddy, including reports on his arrival on 6 May and talks with Yugoslav leaders, see the Yugoslavia section of the 7 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

EXPRESS VIEWS INDO-U.S. RELATIONS, GANDHI VISIT

BK051345 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Apr 82 p 6

[Article by S. Nihal Singh: "A First Step"]

[Text] India is of marginal interest in American strategic thinking and planning for two reasons. It acquires relevance, in Washington's view, only insofar as it impinges upon primary U.S. interests in relation to the other superpower or the sea lanes or West Asia. Besides, it tends to be considered an adversary, not on its own but in combination with the Soviet Union.

With his usual perspicacity, Dr Henry Kissinger has decreed that India is too big and its leadership, principally Mrs Gandhi, too proud to be a mere satellite of the Soviet Union. Ironically, this assessment has encouraged recent American administrations to adopt an attitude of benign neglect of a nation whose potential, if not its present capabilities, cannot be ignored.

Coming in as the Reagan administration did on a wave of hurt national sensibilities, its focus was on coping with the Soviet Union and the perceived threat from it. Pakistan was high on the priority list by virtue of it having become a "frontline state," with the Soviets having dug in in Afghanistan. The generous economic and military aid package, as also the decision to sell Pakistan F-16's on a cash and carry basis, flowed from this primary American concern.

The Americans were no doubt familiar with the consequences the arming of Pakistan would have on their relationship with India. But they were prepared to pay the price because this relationship had become a subsidiary one and, in any case, many in the U.S. administration had lost patience with India's posturing on world issues, mostly on the Soviet side.

Against this background, the promptness with which Mrs Gandhi accepted President Reagan's invitation to visit the U.S.A. brings out one central fact: India needs U.S. friendship more than the other way round. This is dictated by the facts of life. Though no longer as strong as it was in relation to the other superpower, the U.S.A. is still the most powerful nation on earth and continues to exercise great influence in many parts of the world. Secondly, the only real balancing power in the context of the Indo-Soviet relationship remains the U.S.A.

Mrs Gandhi's efforts to reduce India's dependence on the Soviet Union, symbolised by a treaty which served its purpose 10 years ago but is an embarrassment today, predate her defeat in the 1977 elections. She sent an ambassador to Beijing to indicate her interest in beginning the long process of reconciliation with China. And India's deliberate decision to diversify its arms purchases has yielded fruit in the Jaguars, West German submarines and, most recently, Mirage 2000. The new cordiality and content in Indo-French relations as also the strengthening of links with Britain are again facets of a policy of using the European Economic Community as a counterweight of sorts against the Soviet Union.

Even apart from President Reagan and his administration's preoccupation with the Soviet Union and American strategic interests, Indo-American relations have seldom been happy or smooth for long.

There were Nehru's non-alignment policy and its anti-West orientation; his refusal to be part of a policy of containing communism; the inevitable problems of a donor-recipient relationship; India's growing links with and orientation towards the Soviet Union; the consequences of a U.S.-Pakistan arms relationship; and the Sino-U.S. rapprochement.

When Mr Reagan was installed president, there was little prospect or hope for better relations with India. Republican administrations in the U.S. have traditionally been considered less sympathetic towards India and President Reagan in particular became identified with larger defence spending, an obsession with negotiating from a position of strength, an illiberal approach to the poor at home and the Third World at large.

But largely unnoticed in India, Mrs Gandhi had nevertheless become discreet in criticising the U.S.A. more than she felt was necessary. In sharp contrast to the days before she lost power when she found a CIA hand behind every bush, her criticism of the American administration was muted and, but for specific issues, concentrated on the broader North-South problems and those of war and peace.

This policy was determined by the need to keep the door to better relations open as well as the apprehension that the new administration was bloody-minded enough to react to Indian invectives in kind. And it was also realised in Delhi that President Reagan's bark was worse than his bite. The more extravagant declarations had been moderated in implementation and, as every new administration finds out in time, it has to cope with reality, not its vision of the world.

Indo-American problems fall into two categories: international and bilateral, although they often tend to merge. India looks askance at the Reagan philosophy of negotiating with the other superpower only from a position of strength and is totally out of sympathy with his approach to the Third World in trade and aid. Bilaterally, the principal problems are the arming of Pakistan and Tarapur. On the American side, there is particular irritation with India's voting record in the United Nations -- Delhi's compulsions in voting with the Soviet Union, and against the U.S.A., even on issues of marginal interest to India.

The agreement on Tarapur is dead and the only difference is over how to give it a decent burial. India has made its point on the arming of Pakistan; so has the U.S.A., by ignoring Indian objections. The process of an Indo-Pakistani rapprochement, which the Americans wish to encourage, can only be a halting and long-drawn-out one, in view of the legacy of history. An agreement with China, even on the border issue, is possible although its timing is hard to determine.

Which brings us to the central question: Why did President Reagan invite Mrs Gandhi? There are many in the American establishment, even outside the Democrats' fold, questioning the policy of neglecting India, benignly or otherwise. The essence of their arguments is that India, as the pre-eminent power in the subcontinent, can be ignored only at the cost of U.S. interests. Pakistan might be a front-line state and hence worthy of American military aid and support, but its policy is essentially unstable.

And the Reagan administration is not unaware of recent shifts in Indian policies in the economic field and Delhi's constant endeavour to increase its diplomatic options. Although the present U.S. administration might not wish to proclaim from the housetops India's pre-eminent position in the subcontinent, or rather in South Asia, for fear of annoying the Pakistanis, Washington recognises it.

President Reagan's invitation to Mrs Gandhi is a recognition of some encouraging trends in Indian policies, despite the serious differences between the two countries on Pakistan and the wider world. It would not serve American interests to let the Indo-U.S. relationship deteriorate further in a complex world of changing equations.

Given the background of the two leaders and their policies, the first meeting they had at the Cancun North-South summit in Mexico ended on a somewhat more pleasant note than anticipated. And although the personal chemistry between two leaders does not determine relations between their countries, it influences them, particularly in view of the power of U.S. Presidency and Mrs Gandhi's pre-eminence in her country.

The result of Mrs Gandhi's visit can hardly be dramatic, but it is a necessary first step in repairing a relationship which has a more central position in Indian policy, but could also benefit the U.S.A.

RAO ON RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, PRC, BHUTAN

BK020907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has said India will resume negotiations with Pakistan about no-war pact after the atmosphere becomes congenial. Addressing a news conference in Gangtok today, he pointed out that the negotiations had to be temporarily suspended because the atmosphere got vitiated following Pakistan's persistent attempts to raise the Kashmir question on various occasions.

Replying to a question, he reiterated that India wants to normalize relations with China. The forthcoming talks with an official Chinese delegation visiting this country this month will cover the border question and commercial and cultural matters.

Rao denied that Bhutan has violated the 1948 treaty with India. He, however, added that mutual consultations are held to consider any decision taken by the Bhutan Government.

SERVICES CONTINUE DESPITE ASSAM STRIKE

BK061638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 May 82

[Text] Despite a 24-hour Assam bundh [strike] since 0500 this morning, all essential services and major industrial establishments worked normally. The air and train services functioned as usual. The Assam state transport corporation operated its long distant bus services and city services.

Adviser to the Assam Governor R.V. Subramanian told the All-India Radio Gauhati correspondent that oil drilling, pumping and refining operations were maintained at normal level. He said that coal, fertilizers and tea factories continued their normal production.

Subramanian said that the response to the bundh had been lukewarm. It had no impact in Cacher, North Cacher and most parts of Kabri Anglong District.

The adviser said that the overall situation in the state has remained peaceful and under control. There were, however, three incidents of bomb explosion and a few cases of assault. In a bomb explosion in the compartment of a shuttle train last night at Maligaon near Gauhati one person was killed and three injured.

Subramanian said that in all 262 people have been arrested as a preventive measure. He said that attendance in the state secretariat was almost normal and it was over 80 percent in several offices of deputy commissioner.

FAST BREEDER REACTOR 90-PERCENT COMPLETED

BK051100 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 May 82

[Text] About 90 percent of the work on India's first plutonium-based fast breeder test reactor to generate power is completed.

The fast breeder reactor, besides generating power, will also produce plutonium as well as uranium 33. The reactor will go on full stream at the Kalpakkam reactor research center near Madras by the end of next year.

MANUGURU CHOSEN AS SITE FOR HEAVY-WATER PLANT

BK020729 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] A heavy-water plant will be set up in Manuguru on the banks of the river Godavari in Khannan District of Andhra Pradesh.

This was stated by Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Dr H.N. Sethna in Hyderabad. He said the availability of coal and water supply had favored the location of the plant in Manuguru.

USSR TO COOPERATE IN POWDER METALLURGY

BK300803 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] India and the Soviet Union are to cooperate in powder metallurgy. The Soviet Union had given some samples of metallurgical powder to India when a delegation from Moscow recently visited New Delhi.

The technical knowhow of powder metallurgy will help industrial development.

BRIEFS

INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH GDR -- India and the German Democratic Republic are to exchange information on the preparation of 5-year and annual plans. They will also exchange their experiences in manpower planning, industry and agriculture. Under an agreement signed in Berlin, the two countries will also exchange information on the application of electronic data processing. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Apr 82 BK]

NEW ENGINE FOR JET FIGHTERS -- New Delhi, 30 Apr (AFP) -- Indian scientists have developed a new engine for jet fighters which significantly improves their performance in hot climates, official sources said here today. The new engine, coded GTX, is a high performance turbine model to be fitted to the present generation of fighter planes like the MiG-21-B's -- the improved version of the Soviet MiG-21 -- which will remain in Indian Air Force service for at least another decade, irrespective of the Mirage-2000 and the Jaguar deep penetration aircraft which are being inducted into the air force, the sources said. A prototype of the GTX was tested recently and has been approved for general production and is expected to be ready for use within 5 to 6 years. The engine incorporates unique technology to compensate for the loss of power in hot climates. The power loss at an atmospheric temperature of 30 degrees centigrade in conventional engines can be as high as 20 percent. This is reduced to just 4 percent in the GTX and gives it considerable additional thrust and a decisive advantage in combat, the sources said. The engine is also likely to be improved further for the advanced MiG-23 and even MiG-27 if their manufacture is decided upon. Talks on this are in progress with the Soviet Union. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0619 GMT 30 Apr 82 BK]

IRANIAN TROOPS PUSH TO BORDER IN NEW OFFENSIVE

Joint Communique No 9

LD061224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 82

[Joint communique No 9 issued by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpt] In the continuation of the overall Jerusalem operations, the Muslim and combative Islamic nation started another attack against the deceived enemy at 0200 this morning in the Fakkeh border area. In the first hours of these operations, which were started with the aim of destroying or capturing the aggressive forces and mopping up the area, our combatants managed to break the enemy's defense lines and capture their bunkers. Our forces then continued their advance. The forces of Islam used artillery fire and heavy- and medium-weapon fire in these successful operations to capture the areas of Sheykh Hadi and Abu Qorayab, all of the region's sensitive heights and a large part of the important and strategic Hasan Qandi-Fakkeh road.

The defeated enemy, who could not resist the combatants of Islam, retreated and fled at about 1000, leaving behind his dead and wounded and a large quantity of ammunition and armored equipment. As of 1200 today, 706 enemies had been taken prisoner and moved behind the frontlines.

In these successful operations the quick-flying eagles of the army were able to destroy 13 enemy tanks and inflict numerous losses on the enemy. In addition, eight quick-flying fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombed enemy positions in the Fakkeh area at 0630 this morning and returned safely to their bases.

Last night the defeated enemy, who has been pushed west of the Karun River, desperately tried to approach our defense lines on the important and strategic Ahvaz-Khorramshahr road, which is under the control of the forces of Islam. However, it was faced with the unique vigilance and heroism of the brave heroes of the army of Islam. The enemy lost 18 tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles before retreating. A large number of the Saddamists were killed and a number of them were taken prisoner in these operations.

Following the enemy's shameful retreat and defeat, the tank-hunting platoons of the army of Islam used RPG-7's to chase the enemy for a long distance. Our forces destroyed another 20 enemy tanks before returning safely to their bases.

We hereby ask the Muslim and oppressed Iraqi people not to be deceived by Saddam's malicious and Zionist propaganda, not to allow this mercenary of America and Zionism to play with their fate any more, and to cleanse this distainful stain from their homeland. With the hope for the final victory of the combatants of Islam and the liberation of Jerusalem from the paws of invading Zionism, help from God and victory will come soon.

Iraqi Counteroffensives Fail

LD061158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 82

[Summary] According to Central News Unit correspondents, at 0230 Iranian forces staged a sudden attack against the enemy, in the Fakkeh (Bonghaziyeh) sector, liberating a number of kilometers and capturing hundreds of Iraqi personnel. According to the latest reports, enemy communication with the Fakkeh axis has been cut. The Iranian forces also captured several tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles.

At 2100 last night, using the 63d Division, the 28th Brigade, two armored battalions, several cannon, tanks and personnel carriers, the enemy attempted a feeble counteroffensive in the Hoseyniyeh Navard and the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr road sector. But, the counteroffensive was repelled and the Iraqis were forced to retreat. During the clash, which lasted until this morning, hundreds of Iraqis were killed and dozens captured. Also, 25 enemy tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and their crews were killed. One of the military commanders told an IRNA correspondent that the Iraqi casualty toll is very high, but despite heavy enemy fire Iranian casualties are very low.

Last night, Iranian forces repelled an enemy offensive in the Garm Dasht sector, killing 200 Iraqis, destroying 20 tanks, capturing more than 70 Iraqis and forcing the rest to retreat.

An IRNA correspondent reports from west of the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road that during last night's enemy counteroffensive which was completely foiled, hundreds of Iraqis were killed and dozens were captured.

Further Details

LD061848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 82

[Text] According to IRNA, the enemy launched three counteroffensives last night in the Garm Dasht and Hoseyniyeh sectors. During these offensives, a large number of Saddamist troops were killed and 90 were taken prisoner, among whom are 30 rangers from Saddam's special company. During these operations, the enemy also lost 20 tanks and personnel carriers.

On the basis of the same report, which was communicated from the frontline at 1415 by an IRNA correspondent, last night's counteroffensive was launched from three directions and continued until this morning. However, the feeble enemy suffered heavy losses and damage and was forced to retreat. A large number of corpses of the Saddamist forces were left behind after the failure of the enemy counteroffensive.

Joint Communique No 10

LD061834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 82

[Joint communique No 10 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the name of God, crusher of the oppressors, enemy of the tyrants and helper of the oppressed.

Yes, this is the call of the lord of the heroes and leader of the fighters and imam of the faithful, 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, who ordered you to be the enemy of tyrants and helper of the oppressed, so that the faithful should never accept misery and degradation and as long as there is oppression they should fight it.

With congratulations on the birthday of Islam's great man, His Eminence 'Ali ibn Abu Talib and greetings upon all the world's oppressed people, especially the nation of Islam, here is a report concerning the victorious operations carried out by the sons of Islam against the world oppressor and Saddam's mercenaries.

In the course of the successful Jerusalem operations which started at 0200 today in the border region of Fakkeh, the combatants of Islam succeeded in inflicting another great defeat upon the aggressor mercenaries. In these operations, the combatants of Islam captured the regions of Sheykh Hadi and Abu Qorayab and a vast section of the strategic Hasan Qandi-Fakkeh road. Our forces established and consolidated their positions in the regions' important and strategic heights.

During these successful operations heavy blows and damages were inflicted on the Iraqi 426th Infantry Brigade as well as the Iraqi 51st and 34th Armored Brigades and the 27th Mechanized Brigade from the Iraqi 1st Division. The division had recently been reconstructed.

According to the latest figures, the known total of enemy POW's in this region is 765. The POW's include 19 officers, including one major from the Iraqi 426th Infantry Brigade.

The combatants of Islam also succeeded in capturing 38 serviceable tanks and personnel carriers, while 32 tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed. In addition, 54 serviceable vehicles were seized by the forces of Islam. Tanks and other equipment taken as the spoils of war went into operation immediately against the enemies of the Islamic homeland.

This afternoon, the fast-flying fighter aircraft of the Islamic Republic's Air Force launched a daring and surprise attack during which they succeeded in bombing the enemy's main command headquarters in Salamcheh region. Despite the existence of heavy antiaircraft defense in the region, our aircraft returned safely to their base.

Also today, the brave pilots of the Airborne Division inflicted heavy damage on the aggressor Saddamists. They succeeded in destroying 19 tanks, 9 heavy and light vehicles and a large number of enemy personnel.

In the course of today's successful operations, 1 aggressor Iraqi aircraft was shot down by our air force in the Fakkeh area and 600 enemy troops were killed or injured. Among the dead is a colonel of the Iraqi Army.

The Jerusalem operations which were launched under the codename of 'Ali ibn Abu Talib will, with the blessing of God and the prayers of our dear imam, the great Khomeyni, as well as those of the hero and martyr-nurturing nation, bring greater victories to Islam and the Muslim people. Until the final victory of Islam's combatants and until Jerusalem's liberation from the occupying Zionist regime, we will be assisted by God and our victory is near.

Forces Reach Border

GF070812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 May 82

[Text] IRNA has reported from Ahvaz that a while ago victorious Islamic warriors and troops, in the second phase of the Jerusalem offensive, succeeded in stationing entire Islamic units on the international boundaries between Hoseyniyeh station and border post of (Shalam Shir) and raised the glorious Iranian Islamic Republic's flag on the border of holy Islamic country. The report adds that the second phase of the Jerusalem offensive coincides with the eve of the birthday of the pious imam and the offensive codenamed 'Ali ibn Abu Talib.

The offensive began at 2215 yesterday within an area 15 km from (Shalam Shir) and 12-15 km from the border lines. The Islamic Republic defenders are stationed along the border. The enemy was forced to retreat on the other side of the border.

The latest reports received early this morning in Tehran indicate that a great number of aggressors were killed and many others were captured. The Islamic warriors captured great amounts of weapons and destroyed major enemy units.

One of the victorious commanders of Islam, in an interview with an IRNA correspondent, said that the enemy had intended to reinforce his damaged forces last night, but all the reinforcing and damaged troops were either killed or captured.

He added that the Islamic forces firmly intend to free all the occupied lands from the enemy. We will advance until all enemy soldiers are cleared from our holy land.

The report added that our Islamic forces have stabilized all reoccupied areas.

Joint Communique No 11

GF070555 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 May 82

[Joint communique No 11 issued by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of Almighty God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the name of the crusher of tyrants. Muhammad is the messenger of God and those who are with him are hard against the disbelievers but tender among themselves. "We shall slap the faces of Saddam and the Ba'thists who can never arise" -- Imam Khomeyni.

God is great, for our warriors. God is great, for our fighting men. God is great and He is the crusher of tyrants.

On the occasion of 'Ali ibn Abu Talib's birthday, according to the command and Joint Staff of the revolutionary guards and armed forces, the second phase of the Jerusalem offensive, codenamed 'Ali, started at 2200 yesterday.

The Islamic troops, while chanting "God is great," attacked enemy positions and, in the first hours of the attack, succeeded in storming enemy strongholds and marched toward the border on the axis of Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road after severe battles. The armed forces and revolution guards participated jointly in the battles and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy aggressors.

After destroying several tanks and armored vehicles, they were able to reoccupy and clear a large amount of Islamic land and advanced on the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road. Our forces were able to reach the international boundaries.

300 Square Km Liberated

LD070926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0855 GMT 7 May 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a report which we received a few minutes ago:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Continuing last night's victorious operations by the fighters of Islam, 17 km of the border along an area covering 300 square km has been liberated by the powerful fighters of Islam. In this way, since the beginning of the Jerusalem operations and with the help of God, 1,100 square km of occupied territory has been cleased of the filthy existence of the forces of Saddam.

After 19 months the green flag of "God is great" has been raised on the southern international border of our Islamic homeland.

This morning, Saddam warned his units that this battle is the battle of destiny and if any of his officers or soldiers withdraw they will be immediately sent to the firing squads. We hereby announce to all our Muslim Iraqi brothers: Come to the forces of Islam so that you may find refuge in the embrace of Islam and the Islamic Republic and so that you may be saved from the treachery and crimes of Saddam and his masters.

Iraqis Offered Safe Conduct

GF070902 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 May 82

[Text] Dear brothers: Here is the text of the safe conduct issued by the Islamic army to personnel of the Iraqi Army:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The safe-conduct:

Oh Muslim Iraqi soldiers and officers who have been coerced by Saddam and his executioners to fight against Islam and Muslims: Is it not time you asked your conscience for what and for whom you are fighting? Will you not admit the great defeats which the Islamic forces have inflicted upon the Saddam army in the sectors of Abadan, (Al-Batatin), Shahdab, western Gilan, Tavilah, Shush and Dezful, where more than 25,000 Iraqi soldiers have been killed and another 15,000 captured?

Oh Iraqi soldier! Think a little of why Saddam sends you with the Iraqi Army into a devastating war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and does not do the same with the Israeli enemy, the usurper of Arab territory, the aggressor against holy Jerusalem. Doesn't this show Saddam's agentry on behalf of the United States and Israel? Then why do we find that the ones who defend Saddam are agents of the United States and Israel -- the likes of Egypt's ruler, the shah of Jordan, and so on -- those who killed the Palestinians and betrayed the Palestinian cause and the Muslim peoples of the region? Weren't Saddam and his executioners the ones who violated the Iraqis, killed their youths, executed their scholars and destroyed their country? Why then do you fight against your Muslim brothers and obey the orders of Saddam and his mercenaries against Islam and Muslims?

Oh Iraqi soldier! Understand that you have only one way. Join the forces of Islam and give yourself up to them because they will treat you well in a fraternal Muslim fashion like the rest of the Iraqi soldiers who have given themselves up to the forces of Islam. They now live comfortably and peacefully. They spared themselves from the woes of war and death. Join us as thousands of Iraqi Army personnel in the Shush and Dezful sectors have done recently.

Save yourself before you die for the sake of the devil and go to the blazing fire of hell. Join us lest you be doomed to be killed by the fire of the soldiers of Islam and then sent to hell. And what a woeful destiny it is! Join the forces of Islam. Put your hands up, give yourself up to the forces of Islam and declare your surrender to righteousness and Islam.

"Oh you who believe! Respond to God and the messenger when he calls you so that he may give you life." [Koranic verse] Peace be upon whoever follows guidance.

[Signed] The Islamic revolution guards

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 886

LD061850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 82

[Communique 886 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Blessed be the birthday of the imam of justice and justice lovers, supporters of the meek, and oppressed, amir of the believers and the lord of virtuous, 'Ali -- peace be upon him -- to all believers. The Iranian Armed Forces, these self-sacrificing combatants on the path of justice, by following the ideology of that holy imam and his honorable son -- Hoseyn -- peace be upon him -- and in order to fight against symbols of blasphemy, have delivered decisive and crashing blows on Saddamist warmongers and every moment have increased their efforts to destroy the disintegrating forces of blasphemy.

Justice-seeking warriors of Islam, in continuation of their brave and heroic assault during the Jerusalem operations, today also cleansed other parts of the sacred territory of the dear Islamic homeland from the filth of the invaders and killed or wounded a large number of Saddamist forces and captured some of them.

Today, as on previous days, heroic and fast-flying air force pilots and army aviation units provided air cover for units of the ground forces.

The valuable role played by the brave personnel of the navy in backing the Jerusalem operations is also highly appreciated and praised.

Now, all our victorious combatants in the newly captured areas, while continuing their assigned missions, have full control and superiority over the enemy forces. Our combatants are also defending their own positions on other southern fronts by returning the Saddamists' fire.

In the Abadan sector, valiant gendarmerie personnel opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed 1 enemy ammunition depot, 20 trenches and 4 observation posts of the aggressors. At least 60 Iraqi soldiers were killed. Also in the same sector, navy combat units opened fire and destroyed a communication tower at Al-Faw port.

During the past 24 hours, Saddam's feeble army opened intense fire on the residential districts of Abadan, destroying several residential units and killing or wounding several of our dear compatriots.

Our heroic warriors continued their operations on various fronts in the west with exchanges of artillery and mortar fire. Our patrol groups in the Meymak sector, with the backing of artillery units, penetrated enemy positions in order to destroy their troops. This group set fire to and destroyed 1 machinegun, 1 ammunition tent and 5 trenches, killing or wounding several enemy troops.

In the Sumar sector, three equipment stockpiles, one ammunition dump and one vehicle of the Iraqi forces were destroyed and eight Iraqis were killed.

In the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab sector, our forces pounded the enemy's supply road with heavy-weapon fire and destroyed four trenches.

Exchanges of artillery fire continued on the Marivan and Paveh fronts. Thanks to our fire, enemy positions in (Valiabeh), Biarreh, (Shaneh Dari), Toveyleh and (Shushmir-e Bala) sectors were destroyed, artillery fire from the Iraqi forces was silenced and the construction of new trenches was halted.

INVESTIGATORS: ALGERIAN PLANE DOWNED BY IRAQIS

LD062052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 82

[Excerpt] A delegation of experts of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by Col Bahman Forqani, has visited Urumiyeh to investigate the tragedy of the Iraqi fighter aircraft attack on the civilian aircraft carrying the Algerian foreign minister, which resulted in the martyrdom of the minister and his entourage. The delegation was accompanied by the charge d'affaires of our brother country Algeria and the military attache of that country.

At the end of the visit, Colonel Forqani, the delegation leader, and Major Siamak, one of the delegation members, explained the incident. We draw your attention to their remark:

[Begin recording] [Forqani] Our investigations revealed the following: A check of the dialogue tape from the Tabriz control tower made it clear that while the Algerian aircraft was moving toward Iranian airspace from Turkey, two fighter aircraft took off from a base in Iraq. Our radar recorded this exactly. The two fighter aircraft took off to clash with the Algerian aircraft. [passage indistinct]

If you study the flightpaths carefully, you will notice that this plot had been hatched in advance so as to meet this particular aircraft at that particular point. In accordance with their designed plan, the fighters took off from their airbase and attacked the Algerian aircraft before it entered our airspace.

Our radar warned the Algerian pilot to change direction for Ankara immediately. The radar station told the pilot several times that two MiG's were attacking him and that he must return to Ankara. However, it seems that the pilot was not a military pilot and was not well informed on military matters; thus, he insisted that he was carrying several very important persons and that he must go to Tehran. He had said that he could not, thus, go back to Ankara. He argued for approximately 2 minutes with the person in charge of our radar station. Finally he was convinced that he should return toward Ankara. But, unfortunately, at this point, when the aircraft had turned 120 degrees toward Ankara, that is, when it was facing about 300 degrees [as heard], it was hit by missiles fired by one of the Iraqi aircraft. The Algerian aircraft was hit exactly when flying over the border strip. It was hit by missiles on its tail, which broke off, and the left wing was also badly damaged and broke off. It was no longer possible to control the aircraft and it crashed.

We saw the Iraqi missile, its guiding and control sections, and its rocket motor. We even found the other part of the missile, the explosive head. It had exploded, but we found pieces inside the aircraft's fuselage. What other proof is needed?

[Siamak] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In confirming the remarks made by His Excellency Colonel Forqani, I would like to complement his explanation by pointing out we have some undeniable documentary evidence. We are always ready to verify this for anybody or any official. They can come and see the evidence for themselves.

Fortunately, it was the will of Almighty God that electronic fragments of the missile and its rocket motor were left some distance from the aircraft after exploding. We have shown you these parts. The missile exploded, some pieces of the missile entered one side of the aircraft's fuselage and came out the other. This was clear. We showed the holes to all and to our Algerian brothers. They saw everything in detail and with care. We fully and expertly investigated the incident from a technical point of view, there is no doubt -- and all the existing documentary evidence indicates that two Iraqi aircraft chased the Algerian passenger aircraft bringing our Algerian brothers to Iran, and attacked it with missiles. There is no room for denial, as from a technical point of view we carefully investigated all aspects.

The places that the missile fragments hit are clearly visible -- on the wing and on the tail, where the main explosion took place, breaking them from the aircraft. The aircraft then lost control and after travelling for some distance, it hit the foot of a hill and, unfortunately, caught fire. Here we can show you pictures. [end recording]

ALGERIAN TEAM, VELAYATI DISCUSS CRASH

LD061544 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Algerian delegation headed by Mr Saleh Goudjil, Algeria's minister of transportation, met and conferred with our country's minister of foreign affairs last night. The delegation is in Tehran to investigate the crash of the Algerian minister of foreign affairs' aircraft, caused by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's fighter aircraft, and to take the martyrs' bodies home. Mr Nezhad-Hoseyniyan [name as heard], the minister of roads and transport, members of the high-ranking delegation who had gone to the crash site on the first night to study and investigate, and several technical specialists attended the meeting.

Mr Velayati expressed his condolences on the tragic martyrdom of Brother Ben Yahia and his delegation. He talked about his memories of his visit to Algeria and his meeting with Ben Yahia. He noted the memory of his useful and effective meeting in Kuwait with the martyred Algerian minister and that martyr's friendliness. Mr Velayati added: It was during these visits that he was invited to visit his second country [Iran]; Brother Ben Yahia accepted this invitation with pleasure.

The president's special representative, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, the supervisor of civil aviation and members of the investigating team, who had all gone to the crash site on the first night of the incident, gave their observations to the Algerian delegation. One of the members of the investigating team said: The aircraft crashed in an area 2 km from the Iranian-Turkish border. The aircraft was almost totally destroyed by fire. Eyewitnesses report that the attack against the Algerian aircraft was carried out by two intruding aircraft and that the Algerian aircraft caught fire following the attack.

Then one of the technical experts used a map to describe how the attack was launched and the distance and location of the enemy aircraft from the Algerian aircraft. The text of the taped conversation between the control tower at Tabriz airport and the Algerian pilot was read out and a copy of the tape was given to the Algerian delegation.

According to the report, Mr Saleh Goudjil, the Algerian minister of transportation who is heading the 28-man delegation, made a speech at this meeting in which he referred to this painful incident as the common problem of the two Muslim countries of Iran and Algeria. He emphasized the increasing firmness of relations between the two countries. On his own behalf and on behalf of the Algerian Government, council and nation, he deeply thanked the representatives of the government and the Muslim nation of Iran for their sincere feelings. It was also agreed that the technical experts in the Algerian delegation would visit the crash site today to obtain firsthand information on the ruling Baghdad regime's foul crime.

CEREMONY HELD FOR BEN YAHIA IN TEHRAN 6 MAY

LD061240 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 6 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 6 May (IRNA) -- A massive funeral procession was held here this morning for the Algerian foreign minister, Mohamed Ben Yahia, and thirteen other Algerians who were martyred on Monday night in a plane crash near the Turkish border while en route to Tehran.

The ceremony which was held in front of the Majlis, was attended by the Algerian minister of roads and transport, Saleh Goudjil, who arrived in Tehran yesterday heading an Algerian mission to investigate the crash. The funeral was also attended by the Majlis Speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis deputies, members of the Guardian's Council, Ministers of Roads and Transport Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan and officials from the Foreign Affairs Ministry as well as a large number of people.

The plane carrying the Algerians who were on a peace mission effort to Tehran crashed in an area near Iran-Turkey border when it was attacked by the Iraqi fighters. The crowd who gathered in front of the Majlis chanted slogans against Saddam for having committed such a savage crime and praised Ben Yahia. The coffins of the martyrs, covered with the Algerian national flag, were carried by the military cadets. The bodies were then taken to Tehran Mehrabad Airport to be flown to Algiers.

Majlis Deputy Hasan Rohani, addressing the crowd talked about the Iraqi plot to kill the Algerian mission. He said there were strong evidences that the Iraqi fighters attacked the Algerian plane. He further added that by this action the Iraqi Government proved to the world that it was not after peace but rather was scared of it.

The Algerian roads and transport minister then addressed the crowd and on behalf of the Algerian nation thanked the heroic people of Iran for their sympathy shown in this disaster. He also thanked the Iranian officials for their continuous efforts in collecting information and documents about the incident and for arranging funeral services.

Speaker Rafsanjani hoped that soon the Iranian people would make Saddam and his masters kneel down and would expel them from its territories.

Later Iranian and foreign dignitaries gathered at Tehran Mehrabad Airport to pay tribute to the late Ben Yahia and his companions. It included Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff command; minister of roads and transport; and diplomats from embassies of Sweden, France, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Brazil, Bangladesh, Palestine, Yemen Arab Republic, Austria, India, Zaire, Soviet Union, People's Democratic Republic of China [as received], People's Republic of Bulgaria and Arab Saharan Democratic Republic.

The plane carrying the bodies of the Algerian officials took off at noon.

VELAYATI INTERVIEWED BEFORE LEAVING FOR ALGIERS

LD061910 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 82

[Text] Before leaving for Algeria, our country's foreign affairs minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, spoke to our correspondent at the airport. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [passage indistinct] [Question] Could you tell us the latest outcome of investigations into the crash and if the Algerian officials have commented on the issue?

[Answer] We have no doubt whatsoever that Iraq is behind this tragedy and have no doubt that the plane carrying the late Ben Yahia and his entourage was attacked by Iraqi aircraft. However, in order to clarify the issue, and for our Algerian brothers to come to the same conclusion as ours, it is necessary for the Algerian team which has come to Iran to continue with their investigation and to see for themselves all the proof and documents, and later to make comment.

[Question] You held a meeting last night with the Algerian delegation, which is headed by the Algerian transportation minister. What topics did you discuss?

[Answer] Our Algerian brothers who came to Iran headed by the Algerian transportation minister wished to learn about the issue. They asked us to brief them on what had happened and to provide them with any documents at our disposal. Our meeting with them last night covered this issue. We told them what we knew and put at their disposal the documents which we had. We told them of our willingness to cooperate with them in order to facilitate their investigation. [end recording]

COMMERCE MINISTRY DELEGATION VISITING CUBA

LD061344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the deputy commerce minister, who is at the head of a delegation currently visiting Cuba, conferred with the Cuban foreign minister, deputy foreign minister and vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation to discuss the expansion of trade between the two countries.

According to this report, the deputy commerce minister held a press conference in Cuba to explain Iran's political and economic positions on various issues. In this interview he said the Iranian delegation's visit to Cuba was fruitful.

The Iranian delegation is planning to visit several other Latin American countries.